



Town Recreational Shellfish Crier
May 24, 2019

1. Join Us in Congratulating Johnny Clam and Chris as Deputy Constables of the Year!

This Tuesday, May 28, at 7:00 p.m., during the Selectboard meeting at the Council on Aging, the president of the Massachusetts Shellfish Officers' Association, Paul Bagnall, will present the Deputy Constable of the Year awards to Assistant Shellfish Constable Johnny Clam Mankevetch and Deputy Shellfish Constable Chris Manulla. Your letters of support won them this award, so please come enjoy this special moment with them and congratulate them in person! Read your letters [here](#)!

2. Burton Baker Beach Will Be Closed to Shellfishing as part of State Quahog Relay Program

Starting next Wednesday, May 29, the department will place at least 133 bushels of mixed quahogs (littlenecks, topnecks, etc.) at the southernmost part of the Indian Neck recreational-only area at Burton Baker Beach. We will get the quahogs from the Taunton River through a state program that allows towns to move contaminated quahogs to clean waters for natural purification. Quahogs are filter feeders, and they will clean the surrounding waters while they are purging themselves. The state makes us close the area to allow the quahogs to spawn during the summer, increasing the potential for prolific future quahog beds. The quahogs are stringently tested before they are allowed to be harvested and eaten by the public, and we expect to re-open the Burton Baker Beach area on September 16. Look for our buoys and signs explaining the program.

3. Wellfleet SPAT gives Shellfish Dept. a \$17,700 Grant to Support Community Shellfishing

We are pleased to announce that [Wellfleet SPAT](#), the nonprofit that produces the annual Wellfleet OysterFest, has awarded the Wellfleet Shellfish Department a \$17,700 grant to support its community recreational shellfishing program. One of the primary focuses of the program will be increased quahog propagation efforts at the Indian Neck recreational-only area as described above, as well as our sea clam cultching operations, which provides the perfect habitat for baby oysters to settle on and grow. Last year, SPAT awarded \$12,000 to the Shellfish Dept. to help us buy more oyster and clam seed and made a \$10,000 donation to the Town's dredging fund. Many thanks to SPAT for being such an amazing partner and supporting the town's shellfishing community and resources.

4. Recreational Shellfishing Seasonal Change

Starting next Saturday, June 1, all recreational harvesting of shellfish in Wellfleet waters is closed except for **the Indian Neck recreational-only area on Wednesdays and Sundays**, identified as Area 2 in Wellfleet Shellfishing Policy and Regulations. Area 2 is within CCB 11 and includes all marine waters and intertidal areas landward of the area enclosed by the #14 navigational beacon at the seaward end of Indian Neck breakwater to the red #12 channel marker and thence inshore to the end of the first groin south of the Burton Baker Landing

(which is the second groin south of the breakwater). Please note that the Burton Baker Landing will be closed until Sept. 16 due to the contaminated quahog relay program described above. Look for the buoys and signage and ask Deputy Constable Drew who is back on the job!

5. Recreational Permit Reminder

Each permit entitles its user to harvest shellfish as follows: one person – one basket – one rake. The permit is non-transferable. The total amount of shellfish, comprising oysters, quahogs, soft-shell clams or razor clams, blood ark clam or ponderous ark clam taken in one (1) week shall not exceed ten (10) quarts, which is one full wire basket. The new week starts on Sundays. Oysters must measure 3” on a ring, quahogs must measure at least 1” on the hinge, soft-shell clams need to be longer than 2”, and bay scallop season is closed until October 1. Deputy Constable Drew will have 3” PVC oyster rings that wonderful volunteer and recreational shellfisherman David Thompson made for us to hand out for free to recreational harvesters. Don’t hesitate to contact us with any questions: 508-349-0325.

Contact Nancy at nancy.civetta@wellfleet-ma.gov with any questions, comments or ideas for future Town Criers. Thank you!

Nancy Civetta
Shellfish Constable

John Mankevetch
Assistant Shellfish Constable

Chris Manulla
Deputy Shellfish Constable